

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 384 without my signature.

I am a strong supporter of reduced class sizes as a way of fostering a productive learning environment for students and want to maintain a 20:1 student-teacher ratio in eligible classrooms. However, current law allows districts like Petaluma Joint Union High School District to present its case of special circumstances to justify waiving specific class size reduction (CSR) requirements. The State Board of Education is responsible for granting waivers from specific program requirements, when appropriate.

In 2004, the State Board already denied Petaluma Joint Union High School District's request for a waiver of the CSR 20:1 ratio. It is inappropriate for the Legislature to undermine the State Board's authority by circumventing the board's administrative decision with this bill.

Therefore, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger